



Press Release

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Rice and Sorghum Yields Remain on Target for New Record

“Preliminary indications from the 2010 harvest point towards new state records for rice and sorghum yields for Louisiana,” according to Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Soybean yield is expected to be the second highest yield on record, only one bushel away from tying the state record set in 2007,” Crisp added.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 34.1 million cwt, down four percent from the previous month but up 17 percent from 2009. Estimated production is down from last month as rice harvested acreage was revised to 525,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the June acreage estimate. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,500 pounds, up 100 pounds from the previous month and up 200 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 255.3 million cwt, up four percent from the August estimate and up 16 percent from last year.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8.5 million bushels in the state, unchanged from the August estimate but up 59 percent from 2009. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 85,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 100 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would break the existing record of 97 bushels per acre set in 2005. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 376.5 million bushels, down two percent from last month and down two percent from last year.

Soybean production is expected to total 42 million bushels in Louisiana, up five percent from the August estimate and up 15 percent from 2009. An estimated one million acres will be harvested, up 60,000 acres from 2009. Yield is forecast at 42 bushels per acre, up two bushels from the previous month and up three bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.5 billion bushels, up one percent from the August estimate and up four percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 410,000 bales, up five percent from the August estimate and up 17 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest was revised to 250,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from the June acreage estimate. The expected yield per acre, at 787 pounds, is down 45 pounds from the August estimate but up 42 pounds from 2009. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 18.3 million bales, down one percent from last month and up 56 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 72.0 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month’s estimate but down 11 percent from last year. An estimated 480,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 130,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 150 bushels, is unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at a record 13.2 billion bushels, down two percent from last month and fractionally higher than 2009.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.9 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but down six percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 415,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 31 net tons per acre, unchanged from the August estimate but down 1.2 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2010 is forecast at 30.2 million net tons, down marginally from the August estimate and down one percent from 2009.